

IN THE ABSTRACT

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~~The invention is directed to techniques for providing text to speech conversion of textual information at the request of a user of a client device, such as a computer or non-visual communication device (e.g. telephone). In one embodiment, a proxy browser receives the request for the audio output of a body of text from the client device and passes it to a web application in the form of a hypertext transport protocol (HTTP) request. The web application divides the body of text into text portions that can be readily converted from text to speech by text to speech (TTS) software. The web application determines the identity of a TTS server providing TTS software that is capable of converting the text portions to an audio output format. The web application then provides a sequential list of resource identifiers to the proxy browser, in which each resource identifier includes one of the text portions and the identity of the TTS server. The proxy browser then make web requests based on the resource identifiers to the TTS server. Each web request includes one of the text portions. The TTS server then converts the text portion included in each web request to an audio file, and sends the audio file to the proxy browser. The proxy browser then plays the audio file through a connection to the client device, and the user hears the audio file through the client device's speaker. If the proxy browser make all the text portion web requests in sequence corresponding to the text portions for the entire body of text, then the user hears the entire body of text in a substantially continuous manner.~~

A system for providing text-to-speech conversion of a body of text is presented. The system includes a first executable resource which generates text portions from the body of text in response to receiving an initial web request to convert the body of text to speech and provides an output in response to generating the text portions comprising a sequence of resource identifiers suitable for use in the text-to-speech conversion of the text portions. The system

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further includes a second executable resource which receives a text portion web request that requests the conversion of at least one text portion to an audio format, the text portion web request comprising the at least one text portion and one of the resource identifiers, and further provides at least one media file suitable for audio output based on the text portion web request.